As regards the proposal sent in March, 2004, by concentrating only in sheep husbandry inputs and neglecting all issues connected with intensifying the inputs and organizational efforts for the marketing of wool in order to increase the returns to the wool producers, it did not meet the objectives of the central sector scheme of Integrated Wool Improvement Programme. The objectives of the Central Sector Scheme have been discussed at a review meeting on the Wool Sector held by the Ministry of Textiles on 02.06.04 with all State Secretaries of Sheep/Animal Husbandry Department, at which the representative of State Government of Karnataka was informed of the requirement and objectives of the Central Sector Programme. A revised proposal from State Government for providing assistance for consultancy, value addition and processing of the coarse Deccani wool is awaited.

Condition of Blood for Blood

†*268. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of patients are dying in the country because of the condition of giving blood for blood;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider not to apply this condition of giving blood for blood in the cases of serious patients in order to save their lives; and

(c) the units of blood required every month in Delhi together with the total quantum of blood collected through the blood donation camps?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Blood is an essential component of the body which provides sustenance to life. Blood cannot be manufactured in a factory. It can only be collected from a human being and transfused to those in need. Blood can be collected either from a voluntary, replacement or professional donor. The practice of professional blood donation has been banned in India from 1st January, 1998, subsequent to the Supreme Court judgement on this issue. Presently, the requirement of blood is met by a voluntary or a replacement donor. Since there is almost always a shortage of blood from voluntary blood donors, blood banks often insist

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on releasing blood to a patient only after it is replaced by a relative or friend of the patient. This is known as a replacement donation.

Legally, it is not mandatory that the blood given to a patient has to be replaced, nor is there any guidelines to this effect. The practice of asking for a replacement blood unit for a unit of blood released essentially seeks to make up the shortfall in blood stocks in the blood banks. In emergencies, blood is always released without insisting on replacement and the blood banks later make up through either replacement or voluntary collections. It would be incorrect to state that patients are dying due to the system of replacement donations.

As regards the requirement of blood units for Delhi, it varies according to seasons and incidence of various diseases. The estimated average annual requirement for Delhi is about 3.00 lakh units of blood. Delhi has reported an annual blood collection of 3,26,861 units during the year 2003. 76,644 of this (23.4%) was from voluntary blood donation and the rest was collected from replacement donors. It is estimated that 25% of the total blood collection in Delhi is separated into blood components.

Proposals from NGOs

*269. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of project proposals received from Non-Government Organizations by his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) the details of project proposals which have been sanctioned and thereafter found unaccountable during the said period; and

(c) the present status of pending proposals and the likely date for their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has received 42,630 project proposals from Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) during the last three years i.e. 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004. The Ministry has sanctioned 22,343 project proposals to NGOs during the said period pertaining to Environmental Education, Awareness and Training Scheme, Capacity Building Programme for Professional Societies and Institutions, Seminar/